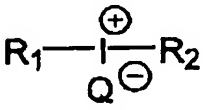
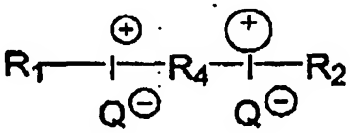
A) **Amendments to the Claims:**

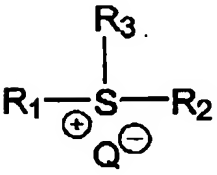
1. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt ~~derivative~~ which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (1) through (4):



(1)



(2)



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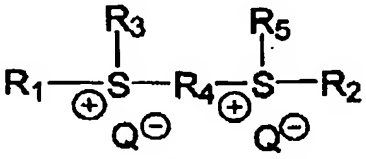
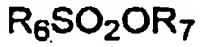


(4)

wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, and $R_5$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of $R_1$ and $R_3$, and $R_2$ and $R_5$ may together form a divalent organic group; $R_4$ represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion,

with an ester compound which has an alkyl group $R_7$ and which is represented by any one of formulas (5) through (7):



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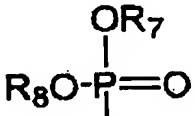

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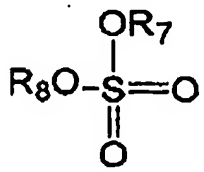
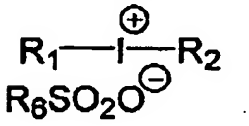


(7)

wherein $R_6$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; $R_7$ represents an alkyl group, having ≤5 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of $R_8$ and $R_9$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted,

to thereby form $R_7Q$ through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R7 of the ester comound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by ~~an~~ any one of $R_6SO_2O^-$, ~~$PO_4R_8R9^-$~~ $PO_4R_8R_9^-$, and $R_6SO_4^-$ derived from the ester ~~comound~~ compound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt, an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (8) through (19).



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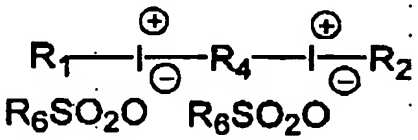

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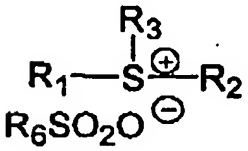

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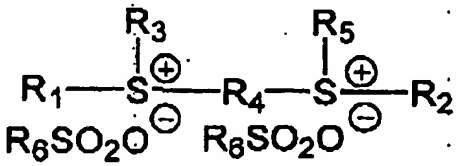

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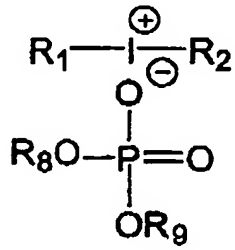

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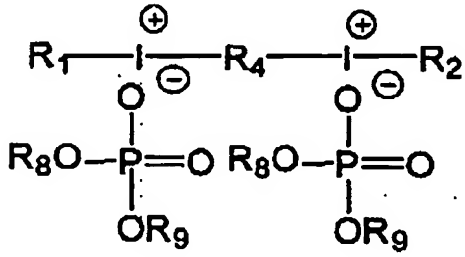

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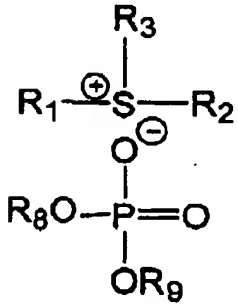

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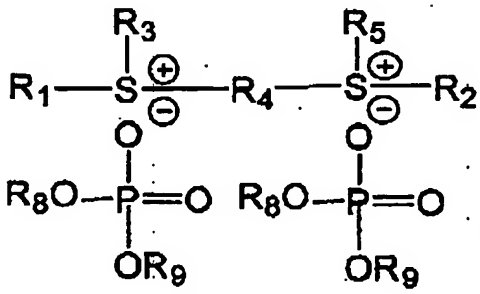

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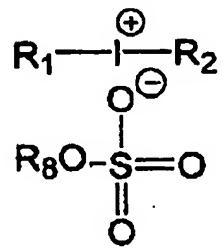

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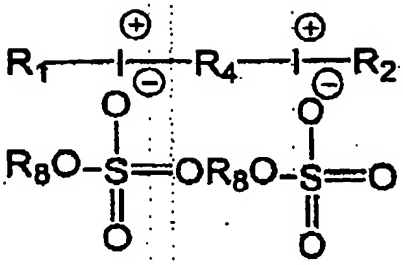

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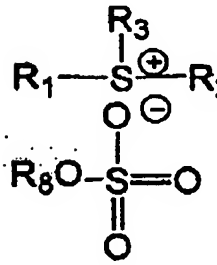

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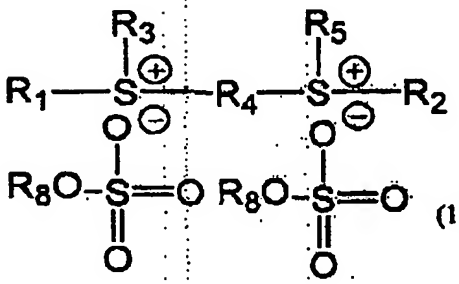


(19)

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1, wherein reaction is carried out while removing generated $R_8Q$ from the reaction system.

4. (previously amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

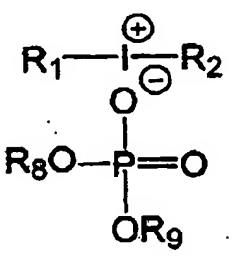
7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously amended) An onium compound which has a phosphate derivative as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of formulas (12) through (15):



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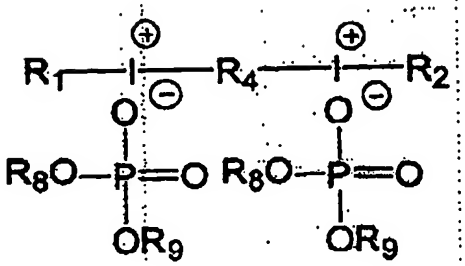
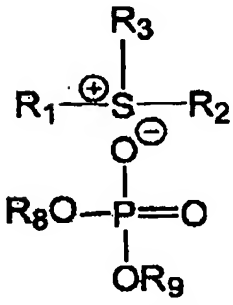
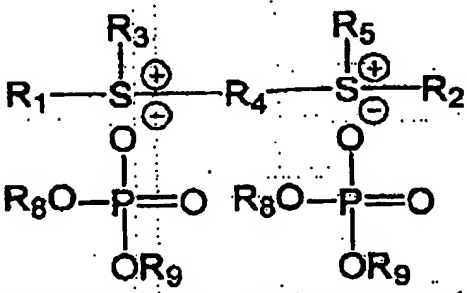


(13)



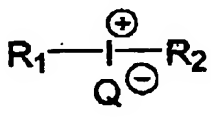
(14)



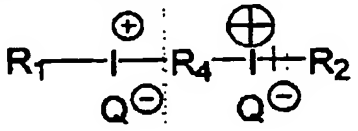
(15)

wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, and $R_5$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of $R_1$ and $R_3$, and $R_2$ and $R_5$ may together form a divalent organic group; $R_4$ represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and each of $R_8$ and $R_9$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted.

12. (currently amended) A method for producing an onium salt derivative, characterized by comprising reacting an onium salt which has a halide Q as an anion moiety and which is represented by any one of the following formulas (1) through (4):



(1)



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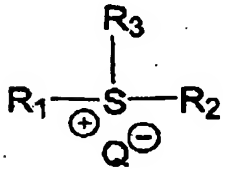
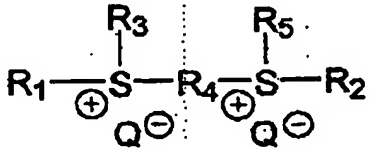


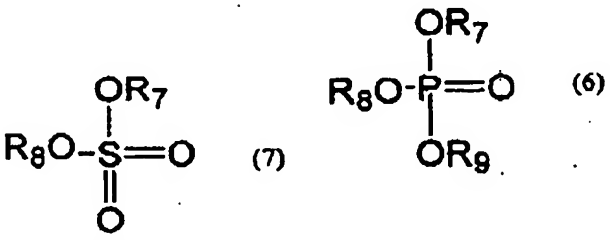
(3)



(4)

wherein each of $R_1$, $R_2$, $R_3$, and $R_5$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, an aralkyl group, or a phenacyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; one or both of the pairs of $R_1$ and $R_3$, and $R_2$ and $R_5$ may together form a divalent organic group; $R_4$ represents a C≤20 divalent organic group; and Q represents a halide anion ~~or a C≤10 carboxylate anion~~,

with an ester compound which has an alkyl group $R_7$ and which is represented by any one of formulas (6) or (7):



(7) (6)

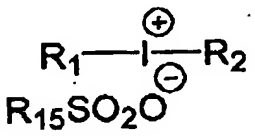
wherein $R_7$ represents an alkyl group, having ≤5 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and each of $R_8$, and $R_9$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤10 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted;

to thereby form $R_7Q$ through nucleophilic attack by the halide Q on the alkyl group R7 of the ester comound, and to also produce an onium salt derivative which is formed of an anion represented by ~~an one of $R_6SO_3O^-$, $PO_4R_8R9^-$~~ $PO_4R_8R_9^-$ ~~, and~~ or $R_6SO_4^-$ derived from the ester ~~comound~~ compound and an onium cation derived from the onium salt ~~, an~~ ; and reacting the onium salt derivative ~~and~~ with a sulfonic acid derivative represented by formula (24):

$$R_{15}SO_2OY \quad (24)$$

wherein $R_{15}$ represents an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a perfluoroalkyl group, an aromatic organic group, or an aralkyl group, each of these groups having ≤25 carbon atoms and being optionally substituted; and Y represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, or ammonium,

to thereby cause salt exchange and yield an onium salt derivative represented by one of formulas (25) through (28).



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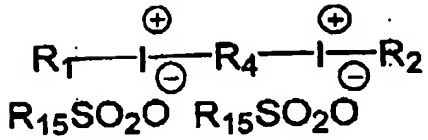

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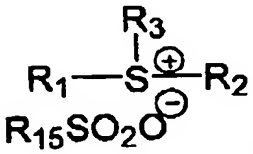

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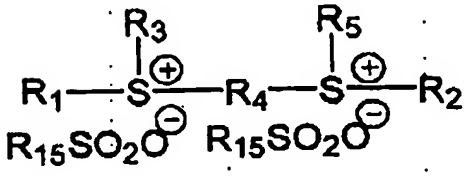

(28)

13. (previously submitted) A method for producing an onium salt derivative according to claim 12, wherein each of $R_7$, $R_8$ and $R_9$ is a methyl group or an ethyl group.